

PRESS RELEASE APRIL 1, 2024

MARTY SMALL IS THE ELECTED MAYOR OF ATLANTIC CITY. HIS WIFE LaQUETTA SMALL IS THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS. BOTH ARE HIGHLY RESPECTED MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

FOR SEVERAL MONTHS THE ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR HAS CONDUCTED SOME INVESTIGATION. BY LAW, THE NATURE OF THAT INVESTIGATION IS PROTECTED FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE. BOTH MAYOR SMALL AND HIS WIFE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THAT INVESTIGATION AND HAVE DONE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO AFFECT THAT INVESTIGATION.

ON MARCH 28, 2024, FIVE SEARCH WARRANTS WERE EXECUTED UPON MAYOR SMALL, HIS WIFE, THEIR VEHICLES AND THE HOME WHERE THEY LIVE WITH THEIR TWO CHILDREN AND LaQUETTA'S MOTHER. THIS WAS DONE IN A VERY AGGRESSIVE AND PUBLIC MANNER.

SEARCH WARRANTS ARE INVESTIGATIVE TOOLS AND ARE FREQUENTLY USED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE EXISTS ANY EVIDENCE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. SEARCH WARRANTS ARE EASY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT TO GET BECAUSE THEY ARE ONE SIDED PROCEEDINGS; THE PERSON TO BE SEARCHED NEVER GETS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TELL HIS OR HER SIDE OF THE STORY. AND OFTENTIMES, SEARCH WARRANTS PRODUCE ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE.

BUT WHEN SEARCH WARRANTS ARE EXECUTED UPON PROMINENT PUBLIC FIGURES, AS WAS DONE HERE, THAT UNDERSTANDABLY CREATES SPECULATION IN THE COMMUNITY AS TO THE NATURE OF THE INVESTIGATION.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PRESS CONFERENCE IS TO ADDRESS THAT SPECULATION. A CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE SEARCH WARRANTS AND STUDY OF THE FACTS RELEVANT TO THIS INVESTIGATION REQUIRES ME TO UNEQUIVOCALLY STATE THE FOLLOWING:

1. THIS ENTIRE INVESTIGATION AROSE FROM NOTHING MORE THAN A PERSONAL AND EMOTIONAL FAMILY MATTER. MAYOR SMALL AND HIS WIFE LaQUETTA INDEED HAVE HIGH PUBLIC PROFILES, DESERVEDLY SO; BUT THEY HAVE THE SAME PRIVATE FAMILY LIVES AND CHALLENGES AS EVERY OTHER ORDINARY PARENT. SEARCH WARRANT AUTHORITY SHOULD BE USED, BUT NOT ABUSED.
2. THERE HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY NO LAPSE IN MAYOR SMALL'S FAITHFUL DISCHARGE OF HIS DUTIES AS MAYOR OF ATLANTIC CITY.
3. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THERE HAVE BEEN NO THEFTS, NO EXTORTIONS, NO PAYOFFS AND NO ACTS OF DISHONESTY SUCH AS MAY HAVE UNFORTUNATELY TAINTED SOME PRIOR ADMINISTRATIONS HERE IN ATLANTIC CITY AND ELSEWHERE.
4. THE CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY REMAINS IN GOOD HANDS UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF MAYOR MARTY SMALL. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT PERSONAL FAMILY MATTERS HAVE DRAWN THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR, BUT THAT INVESTIGATION HAS NO EFFECT WHATEVER UPON THE INTEGRITY OF MAYOR SMALL'S ADMINISTRATION.